

# Michigan Youth Horse Racing Program



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**Michigan Department  
of Agriculture**

*...Bringing yesterday's tradition of horse racing back to our youth.*

# Michigan's Horse Racing Industry

- 7 licensed horse racing tracks
- \$1.2 billion industry
- 26,200 Michigan jobs
- 26 county fairs host harness racing



# Program Objectives

- Stimulate interest in Michigan Horse Racing
- Educate youth about the horse racing industry
- Enhance youth involvement with livestock



# Racing Overview

- Youth races are held at fairs throughout the State
- Winners are eligible to participate for the championship
- Championship race is hosted at a premier Michigan race track



# Eligibility

- Youth must be between 10 and 19 years of age
- Two years of riding experience is required
- Participants must be certified



# Certification Clinics

- Certification clinics are held prior to the race
- Each race participant and horse team must be certified in the current race year
- Riders are certified on their ability to safely handle their horse



# Entry Process/Requirements

- Complete Participant Information & Emergency Form and Sign Liability Waiver
- Pay entry fee
- Provide current negative Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test papers
- Provide certification card



# Racing Specifics

- 5 or less riders per race heat
- Five divisions
- Walking start
- Races are held on the straight-away section of the race track in front of the grandstand





# Safety

- Helmets and rider safety vests must be worn by participants
- Safety equipment is provided by the State of Michigan
- All rider equipment is checked before racing



# Contact Information

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